

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing Of Claims:**

Please amend the claims as follows:

1. (Currently Amended) A method for providing read-only access to configuration data for a network element configuration data, comprising:
  - receiving a request to access the configuration data for the network element, the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element; and
  - in response to the request, initiating a communications session through a SONET transport center with the network element, the network element comprising SONET hubs that are linked by fiber optic connections to form a closed loop,
  - receiving the configuration data from the network element, and
  - transmitting the configuration data in a read-only format as a response to the request;
  - retrieving previously stored configuration data associated with the network element from a database;
  - comparing the previously stored configuration data to the configuration data received from the network element;
  - determining whether the previously stored configuration data and the configuration data received from the network element are identical; and

in response to determining that the previously stored configuration data and the configuration data received from the network element are not identical, storing the configuration data received from the network element in the database.

2. (Canceled)

3. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein said request further comprises a user login and password, and wherein an error message is provided in response to said request if said user login and password are not authorized to access said configuration data.

4. (Original) The method of Claim 1, further comprising:  
retrieving previously stored configuration data associated with said network element from a database;  
comparing said previously stored configuration data to said configuration data received from said network element;  
determining whether said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are identical; and  
in response to determining that said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are not identical, storing said configuration data received from said network element in said database.

5. (Original) The method of Claim 4, wherein said request is received at a World Wide Web site.

6. (Original) The method of Claim 5, wherein said World Wide Web site is only accessible via an intranet.

7. (Original) The method of Claim 6, wherein said network element comprises a network element located on an optical network.

8. (Currently Amended) A system for providing read-only access to network element configuration data, comprising:

a network element located on an optical network operative to store configuration data describing the current configuration state of the network element and further operative to provide said configuration data in response to requests for said data received through a SONET transport center, the network element comprising SONET hubs that are linked by fiber optic connections to form a closed loop; and

a server computer communicatively coupled to said network element and operative to provide a World Wide Web site at which a request may be received to view said configuration data, to retrieve said configuration data from said network element in response to said request, and to provide said configuration data in a read-only format in response to said request, the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element, to retrieve previously stored configuration data associated with the network element from a database, to compare the previously stored

configuration data to the configuration data received from the network element, to determine whether the previously stored configuration data and the configuration data received from the network element are identical, and to store the configuration data received from the network element in the database in response to determining that the previously stored configuration data and the configuration data received from the network element are not identical.

9. (Original) The system of Claim 8, wherein said server computer is further operative to receive a user login and password, to determine if said user login and password are authorized to access said configuration data, and to provide an error message in response to said request if said user login and password are not authorized to access said configuration data.

10. (Original) The system of Claim 9, further comprising a telemetry assignment system database having previously stored configuration data for said network element; and wherein said server computer is further operative to retrieve said previously stored configuration data, to compare said previously stored configuration data to said configuration data received from said network element, to determine whether said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are identical, and, in response to determining that said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are not identical, to store said configuration data received from said network element in said telemetry assignment system database.

11. (Original) The system of Claim 10, wherein said World Wide Web site is accessible only via an intranet.

12. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

initiate a communications session through a SONET transport center with a network element in response to a request to access configuration data for said network element, the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element, the network element comprising SONET hubs that are linked by fiber optic connections to form a closed loop;

receive said configuration data from said network element; and

transmit said configuration data in a read-only format as a response to said request;

retrieve previously stored configuration data associated with the network element from a database;

compare the previously stored configuration data to the configuration data received from the network element;

determine whether the previously stored configuration data and the configuration data received from the network element are identical; and

store the configuration data received from the network element in the database in response to determining that the previously stored configuration data and the configuration data received from the network element are not identical.

13. (Canceled)

14. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein said request further comprises a user login and password, and wherein said computer executable instructions are further operative to cause the computer to generate an error message in response to said request if said user login and password are not authorized to access said configuration data.

15. (Currently Amended) A computer-readable medium comprising computer executable instructions which, when executed by a computer, cause the computer to:

initiate a communications session with a network element through a SONET transport center in response to a request to access configuration data for said network element, the request comprising a target identification code corresponding to the network element wherein said request further comprises a user login and password, and wherein said computer executable instructions are further operative to cause the computer to generate an error message in response to said request if said user login and password are not authorized to access said configuration data, the network element comprising SONET hubs that are linked by fiber optic connections to form a closed loop;

receive said configuration data from said network element;

transmit said configuration data in a read-only format as a response to said request;

retrieve previously stored configuration data associated with said network element from a database;

compare said previously stored configuration data to said configuration data received from said network element;

determine whether said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are identical; and

to store said configuration data received from said network element in said database in response to determining that said previously stored configuration data and said configuration data received from said network element are not identical.

Claims 16. through 20. (Canceled)

21. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the network element comprises a network element located on an optical network having one or more SONET rings.

22. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the network element comprises a network element located on an optical network having one or more SONET rings.

23. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein said network element comprises a network element located on an optical network having one or more SONET rings.

24. (Previously Presented) The method of Claim 1, wherein the configuration data includes at least one of information regarding the installation of the network element and information regarding the existence of the network element.

25. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the configuration data includes at least one of information regarding the installation of the network element and information regarding the existence of the network element.

26. (Previously Presented) The computer-readable medium of Claim 12, wherein the configuration data includes at least one of information regarding the installation of the network element and information regarding the existence of the network element.

27. (Previously Presented) The system of Claim 8, wherein the network element comprises a network element located on an optical network and the configuration data includes at least one of information regarding the installation of the network element and information regarding the existence of the network element.